



**Parks and Recreation Department Board  
Minutes**

**April 23, 2002  
Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, April 23, 2002 at the Parks and Recreation Department, 200 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas.

**Board Members Present:** Rosemary Castleberry, Rhonda Pratt, Mary Ruth Holder, Pablo Valdez, Jeff Francell, Clint Small and Jeb Boyt

**Board Members Absent:** Amy Babich

**City Staff Present:** Jesus M. Olivares, Kimberley Jamail, Stuart Strong and Dina Haines

**A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

- B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** March 12, 2002 meeting. **Board Member Holder** made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. **Board Member Small** seconded the motion. **The Board was in favor 6-0-1. Board Member Boyt** abstained.

**C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

**Patricia Humphries** spoke on behalf of the Old Bakery Board and stated their opposition to move the Susanna Dickinson House to the Old Bakery location at 1006 Congress Avenue. Ms. Humphries spoke of various concerns regarding trees being cut, public parking, Old Bakery building too small to support the house, site cost, move cost and maintenance cost of the house. **Board Chair Castleberry** referred the matter to the next Land and Facilities Subcommittee meeting.

**Larry Akers**, Friends of the Park and Stakeholder Representative to Town Lake Park spoke to the board regarding the proposed closure of Riverside Drive. Mr. Akers would like the Board to defer a recommendation pending further work the staff of Transportation Planning and Sustainability on traffic modeling, but expressed interest in the closing of Riverside Drive pursuant to the Town Lake Master Plan, which would give more parkland back to open space instead of having a road go through the Park.

**Julie Fitch**, Downtown Austin Alliance told Board Members that the DAA supports the TPSD staff recommendations for near term changes to downtown streets. Ms. Fitch stated that the DAA also supports leaving Riverside Drive open to traffic.

**D. PRESENTATION**

**Gordon Derr**, Urban Design Planner, Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Department gave a presentation to the board on the Near Term Transportation recommendations for down town projects. Proposed changes discussed included converting various streets to two-way traffic, providing peak hour left turn restrictions (6 month trial), providing street extensions and proposed meandering of South 1<sup>st</sup> Street to reversible lane traffic to ease congestion during peak hours. These recommendations are conceptual and have not yet been approved by City Council. The current staff proposal concerning Town Lake Park is to convert Riverside Dr. into a two lane meandering road through the park. Mr. Derr explained that he is still discussing the proposal with the stakeholders. **Board Member Holder** explained to the other members that the Land and Facilities Subcommittee discussed this item at their meeting earlier the same day and preliminarily supported (2-1-0) the extension of West Avenue, (3-0-0) the completion of the Lance Armstrong bikeway and recommended (2-1-0) that with regard to Riverside Dr., TPSD continue to review these options: the current staff recommendation, a plan to put parking along the outside two lanes of Riverside Dr. while leaving the inside two lanes for traffic without realigning the road, and an option to lower Riverside Dr. being discussed by TPSD staff and the stakeholders. Ms. Holder explained that these were preliminary recommendations only. This item will be brought back to the Parks Board, May 14, 2002 for the full Board to make a recommendation to City Council.

**E. PUBLIC HEARING**

**Chair Castleberry** closed the Public Hearing of the proposed naming of a public facility for "Jane Dunn Sibley Symphony Square." **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. The vote was in favor 7-0-0.

**F. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

1. Make a Recommendation to City Council regarding the Proposed Naming of a Public Facility, "Jane Dunn Symphony Square."

**Board Member Small** made the motion to recommend the naming change to City Council. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The vote was in favor 7-0-0.**

**G. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Olivares informed the board of the Parks and Recreation Department budget shortfall to the sum of 1.5 million dollars as a result of tax revenue losses. The department calculated 45 FTE positions were lost.

The department at this time is considering the fees collected for Auditorium Shores and Waterloo Park and hopes that the department may be able to increase the fees for rental of these popular and much requested sites.

Mr. Olivares also informed the board of a possible Austin City Limits concerts to be held at Zilker Park, September 28 and 29, 2002.

**H. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Programs Committee

Items discussed were the Dino Pit and Totally Cool, Totally Art Program

Land and Facilities Committee

All the items that were discussed at its noon meeting were on the Board's agenda this evening.

Navigation Committee

None

**H. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Board Member Francell informed the board of an up coming concert event to be held at Waterloo Park and asked about the admission fee for the event in comparison to the amount of general revenue fund money that would be paid to the City.

**I. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.**